

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 CU-02 /077 W

----- 122383

R 061314Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2683

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 132

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PDEV, MASS, OAU, AO, NI

SUBJ: NIGERIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR ANGOLA?

REF : LAGOS 104

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BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. NATIONAL PRESS TODAY CARRIES REPORTS THAT YOUNG NIGERIANS ARE WILLING VOLUNTEER FIGHT FOR MPLA IN ANGOLA. IBADAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT'S UNION CALLED ON FMG TO SET UP A "VOLUNTEER SERVICE FORCE" TO ASSIST THE MPLA. AT PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 5 THE STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT PRAISED FMG FOR GIVING SOME \$21.5 MILLION TO MPLA AND CRITICIZED U.S. ROLE IN ANGOLA, REPEATING ALLEGATIONS THAT THERE 300 AMERICAN EX-SERVICEMEN FIGHTING IN ANGOLA AS MERCENARIES UNDER DIRECTION "SINISTER (AMERICAN) INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION."

2. ALSO YESTERDAY SECRETARY GENERAL PATRIOTIC FRONT FOR AFRICA (PAFRIKA) MR. KANMI YSOLA-OSOBU HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN LAGOS AND CALLED FOR CREATION OF ALL-AFRICAN "VOLUNTEER CORPS" TO LIBERATE ANGOLA FROM CLUTCHES OF IMPERIALISM. ACCORDING ONE PAPER, HE CLAIMED THERE ALREADY 5,000 "ABLE-BODIED NIGERIAN YOUTHS" WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED. PAFRIKA OFFICIAL ASSERTED ANGOLAN SITUATION REPRESENTED DESIGN OF IMPERIALISTS, PARTICULARLY AMERICA, TO TURN "THE PLACE INTO ANOTHER VIETNAM IN AFRICA." ISOLA-OSOBU ACCUSED UNITA OF BEING A "FRONT FOR APARTHEID AND ANTI-AFRICANISM" AND LINKED THE "AMERICAN BACKED" FNLA WITH MOBUTU'S PLAN ANNEX ANGOLA'S OIL-RICH CABINDA.

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, SEMINAR HELD EVENING JANUARY 5 UNDER AUSPICES PRESTIGIOUS GOVERNMENT-RUN NIGERIAN INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, TO DISCUSS STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE ANGOLA TURNED INTO RALLY FOR MPLA. END UNCLASSIFIED

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4. COMMENT: PAFRIKA IS UNKNOWN QUANTITY TO EMBASSY BUT ITS SECRETARY GENERAL HAS LONG HISTORY OF ASSOCIATION WITH SOVIET FRONT GROUPS. HE IS A JOURNALIST AND LAWYER WHO IS NATIONAL SECRETARY OF NIGERIAN BRANCH AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION (AASO) AND SECRETARY GENERAL NIGERIAN SOCIALIST MOVEMENT. WE WOULD SUSPECT ISOLA-OSOBU'S PRESS CONFERENCE TO HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY SOVIET EMBASSY HERE.

5. WHATEVER MIGHT BE BEHIND PAFRIKA PRESS CONFERENCE, IT  
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APPEARS QUITE EVIDENT THAT SUPPORTERS OF MPLA ARE USING NIGERIA AS PLATFORM TO GAIN MAXIMUM SUPPORT FOR MPLA BEFORE OAU MEETING. LAGOS HAS CONSIDERABLE NUMBER PRESS REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING THOSE FROM SOVIET BLOC, ALL OF WHOM ALONG WITH DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WILL REPORT THESE "CALLS" FOR AFRICAN SUPPORT MPLA TO THERE HOME OFFICES AND GOVERNMENTS. INTENTION IS SURELY TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS WHO HAVE NOT RECOGNIZED MPLA AND WHO MIGHT BE WAVERING.

6. WHILE THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY FMG WOULD SEND "STUDENT VOLUNTEERS" TO FIGHT IN ANGOLA, THESE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED CALLS FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR MPLA CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH FMG COULD FIND IT EASIER SEND A TOKEN MILITARY FORCE TO ASSIST MPLA SHOULD IT DECIDE TO DO SO. END CONFIDENTIAL.  
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## Message Attributes

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